

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

The occurrence of certain tropical plants in Mississippi.

The flora of the coastal region of Mississippi is made more interesting by the naturalization of some tropical shrubs, introduced for ornamental purposes. These are of three species: *Lagerstromia indica* Linn., the Crêpe Myrtle; *Zizyphus vulgaris* Lam., the Jujube Tree, and *Vitex agnus-castus* Linn., the Chaste-Tree.

The first of these species is still very common in cultivation; in the wild state it occurs as a shrub of rather bushy habit, from four to ten feet in height. The pink flowers are borne very profusely all summer, and through September.

Zizyphus vulgaris is cultivated to some extent as a lawn shrub, but is also spontaneous. Owing to the slight edibility of the fruit, and the large size of the seed, the plants are infrequently found outside of the limits of the yard where it is grown. The usual habit is bushy, and the average height about twelve feet, but in some cases the plant is a tree of eight inches in diameter, and twenty feet in height. The drupes are somewhat eaten by birds—*Mimus polyglottos* and *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. The fruit ripens in August.

Vitex agnus-castus is now little cultivated, it is fairly common on the beach, growing in the sand, often below extreme high-water mark. It is usually a shrub less than ten feet high, but in one case, at Bay St. Louis, reaches a height of about twenty feet. The flowers appear in May.—Andrew Allison, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.